

Joe Brumit
Brumit Restaurant Group



January 12, 2010

Chairman Julius Genachowski
Commissioner Meredith Attwell Baker
Commissioner Mignon Clyburn
Commissioner Michael J. Copps
Commissioner Robert M. McDowell

Federal Communications Commission
445 12th Street, SW
Washington, DC 20554

Re: GN Docket No. 09-191

January 8, 2010

Dear Chairman Genachowski and Commissioners:

As a small business owner in the mountains of western North Carolina, an area with tremendous community needs, I am acutely aware of the urgent need for investment and economic growth. This is a wonderful area in which to live and raise a family. So it is heartbreaking to see, year after year, young people graduate high school, go off to college and never return – effectively driven out of their mountains by a lack of economic growth and opportunity.

The solution to the economic and physical isolation is advanced broadband technology. High-speed Internet truly erases distances and expands horizons. When broadband seamlessly connects businesses to customers and vendors in distant cities and across the globe, entrepreneurs bring jobs because their employees are looking for an excellent quality of life. And many of the jobs created in this information economy are environmentally-friendly and high-paying, exactly what we need here in the shadows of the Great Smokies.

Turning this rosy scenario into reality will require ongoing investment in networks and technology – and not well-intended but insufficient government funding. Private-sector capital is needed to build the networks and create the jobs necessary to connect those living in every cove and ridge to the Internet. A tremendous amount of progress has been made in a relatively short time, especially compared to the deployment of other technologies and services which are part of daily life. But there is more to be done.

I encourage you to preserve and adopt policies which encourage investment in advanced technologies and thereby stimulate economic growth and development. By proposing new

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regulations, particularly in segments of the market previously unregulated, the Open Internet Notice of Proposed Rule Making (NPRM) will take us in the wrong direction by depressing future investment.

Please be extremely circumspect and deliberate as you consider the NPRM. We need forward-looking policies that will help bring jobs to these mountains, and the best and the brightest of our students back to fill them. Will you make them?

Sincerely,

A handwritten signature in dark ink, appearing to read "Joe Brumit", with a stylized, flowing script.

Joe Brumit